

September 14, 2021

A meeting of the County Commissioners of Kent County was called to order at 10:04 a.m. with the following present: P. Thomas Mason, President, Ronald H. Fithian, and Robert N. Jacob, Jr. The meeting convened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Mason asked the audience to remain standing for a moment of silence for the families of the 9/11 victims.

Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator was also in attendance.

CONSENT ITEMS

On motion by Commissioner Fithian and seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Commissioners unanimously approved the following items:

1. Regular Session Minutes, September 7, 2021
2. Liquor Minutes, September 7, 2021

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Commissioner Mason read and presented a Certificate of Recognition to the following members: Wayne Benjamin, Rock Crum, Lee Hunley, Bob Krohn, Mary Lou Pagella, John Paolella, Fred Sherriff, and Jane Welsh, Chestertown Lions Club. Commissioner Jacob read and presented a Certificate of Recognition to the following members: Muriel Cole, Mary Etta Reedy, Wayne Benjamin, Phil Cicconi, Carolyn Sorge, and Fred Sherriff, Kent County Commission on Aging. Commissioner Fithian read and presented a Certificate of Recognition to the following members: Bill and Cathy Clark, Debbie Campbell, Breon Gilleran, and Angela Lunczynski, Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corp. Each volunteer organization was recognized for their outstanding service and commitment to the Kent County community during the COVID-19 response and for the invaluable time and energy that was put forward in making the COVID-19 vaccination process a success. Commissioner Fithian shared his heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers who rose to the occasion and helped the Kent County community through a very difficult time.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Commissioner Mason read and presented Wayne Darrell, Director, and Ginger Gregg, Emergency Planner, Emergency Services with a proclamation for National Preparedness Month, "Prepare To Protect." National Preparedness Month has occurred annually in September since the tragedy of September 11, 2001. It creates an ideal opportunity for every Kent County resident to join citizens across the United States in preparing their homes, businesses, and communities for any type of emergency, including natural or man-made disasters. All residents of Kent County are urged to plan ahead for disasters by participating in neighborhood preparedness activities, registering their contact information in the CodeRED mass notification system, and visiting the County's preparedness campaign through social media outlets.

TOWN OF GALENA

John Carroll, Mayor, Justinian Dispenza, Council Member, and Kathleen Billmire, Zoning Coordinator, Code Enforcement, and Grant Writer, Town of Galena were present to discuss a project. The proposed “Walkable Galena and Beyond” project would connect Galena’s walkable sidewalk and footpaths to adjoining local communities. Mr. Carroll submitted a correspondence dated September 14, 2021 whereby the Council of Galena unanimously voted to support an inclusive trail system to connect the communities of Olivet Hill, the Town of Galena Parks and walking paths, and the Village of Georgetown. Mayor Carroll and Mr. Dispenza detailed the key points of the project as it addresses the needs of the community, improves the quality of life for the citizens of the area, helps an underserved community, and supports pedestrian safety. Discussion took place. The Commissioners expressed their interest in the proposed project and directed staff to prepare a letter of support. Mr. Carroll thanked the Commissioners for their support. The next step is for the Town to contact State Highway Administration staff to discuss the project concept. The Commissioners were amenable to a future work session with all parties.

TOWN OF MILLINGTON

Jo Manning, Town Administrator, Town of Millington was present to discuss a proposed project to repurpose the former Millington Elementary School and grounds. Ms. Manning specified the Town would like to transform the former school into a Complex Commercial Community Center. Ms. Manning explained the proposed project. The existing cafeteria would be used for a food bank, the existing library would be a community library/computer lab, classrooms would be used for medical and professional services, and the Town office would relocate as well. Ms. Manning reported she has explored funding opportunities with the State of Maryland, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Discussion took place. The Commissioners provided feedback and recommended a work session with the Town of Millington Mayor and Council and applicable project partners to discuss the project further.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Chris Bove, Assistant Director/Risk Manager, Human Resources, on behalf of Myra Butler, Director, Parks and Recreation, presented a request to promote an employee to the Administrative Specialist I vacancy, at a Grade 4 on the salary scale. On motion by Commissioner Fithian and seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Commissioners unanimously approved the request.

KENT COUNTY DETENTION CENTER

Herbert Dennis, Warden, Kent County Detention Center (KCDC) presented a renewal contract for Correct Rx Pharmacy Services. Warden Dennis stated Correct Rx is the medication delivery vendor for inmates’ medication. Since 2009 KCDC has contracted with Correct Rx to fill and deliver medication to the KCDC inmate population. Staff is recommending a sole source contract for FY2022, with Correct Rx, piggybacking on a competitively awarded contract with New River Regional Jail Authority in Dublin, Virginia. On motion by Commissioner Fithian

and seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Commissioners unanimously approved the renewal contract with Correct Rx, for an amount not to exceed \$58,000.00.

KENT FAMILY CENTER

Lisa Mazingo, Director, Kent Family Center introduced Samantha Rivera, Services Coordinator, to the Commissioners as a newly hired staff member. Ms. Mazingo presented the annual renewal of the Services Contract Agreement between Maryland Family Network and the County Commissioners of Kent County for the Kent Family Center, a family support center. Ms. Mazingo indicated the Center is in its sixth year of operation. Kent Family Center is primarily funded through a grant, in the amount of \$365,000.00 from the Maryland Family Network. The contract includes \$30,000.00 in Federal Funding from the Central Bureau of Child Abuse Prevention and \$335,000.00 in State Funding from Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for core funding. Funds cover the cost of programs to support Kent County families who have children under the age of four. General Education Development (GED) classes, work readiness, financial planning, health education, parenting education, mental health services, basic life skills, resource linking, and a high-quality early childhood education program are offered by KFC. On motion by Commissioner Fithian and seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Commissioners unanimously approved the annual renewal contract between the Commissioners of Kent County and Maryland Family Network to continue operations of the Kent Family Center.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator reported the Kelleys Park Road, Rock Hall, MD property settlement took place on September 1, 2021, at MacLeod Law Group, LLC. Commissioner Mason attended the settlement proceedings for the sale of the abovementioned property to William R. Ashmore and Valerie L. Ashmore.

Ms. Heller reported on September 9, 2021 the Commissioners responded in-kind to a letter dated August 31, 2021, from Claude J. Morales, Jr., Mayor, Town of Millington regarding a new Wastewater Treatment Facility in Millington.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The procedures for public comment were in effect. No comments were received from citizens.

Commissioner Fithian attended the September 11th ceremony on Saturday hosted by the Town of Galena and commended the Town for organizing such a beautiful event that memorialized the 20th anniversary of the September 11th tragedy.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Leatrice Williams, Administrative Aide, Maryland Public Service Commission, has notified the County of the Public Utility Law Judge's Notice of Remaining Procedural Dates issued in Case No. 9499, Morgnec Solar, LLC, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a 45.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Kent County, Maryland.

CONTINGENCY FUND

The FY2022 Contingency Fund balance as of August 24, 2021, is \$173,000.00 and the FY2022 use of fund balance total is \$69,932.00.

CLOSED SESSION

At 11:13 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Fithian, seconded by Commissioner Jacob, and carried unanimously to go into closed session. The meeting was closed under the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article § 3-305(b) (1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

PERSONNEL

Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator; Bill Mackey, Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning; Sondra M. Blackiston, Clerk/KATE Manager; Sallie Watson, Deputy Clerk II; and Lacey T. Cox, Deputy Clerk I, were in attendance.

Topic to be discussed: Current appointments on a Board/Commission.

Reason for closing: Discussion of current appointments are confidential and must be shielded.

Mr. Mackey discussed the composition of several Boards/Commissions. The Commissioners and staff discussed specifics concerning current members.

At 11:43 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Fithian, seconded by Commissioner Jacob, and carried unanimously to adjourn the closed session and reconvene in open session.

OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Jacob summarized the closed session. The Commissioners and staff discussed the reappointment of members serving on County Boards/Commissions. No action was taken by the Board.

At 11:44 a.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Jacob, seconded by Commissioner Fithian, and the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. The Board is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sondra M. Blackiston
Clerk/KATE Manager

Approved:

P. Thomas Mason, President
The County Commissioners
of Kent County, Maryland

September 14, 2021

The Board of License Commissioners met today with the following present: P. Thomas Mason, presiding, Ronald H. Fithian, and Robert N. Jacob, Jr.

Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator was also in attendance.

CONSENT ITEM

On motion by Commissioner Fithian and seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Commissioners unanimously approved Consent Item #2 - Liquor Minutes, September 7, 2021.

SPECIAL CLASS C LICENSE

Betterton Volunteer Fire Company has applied for a Beer only, Special Class C per diem license for an event to be held on September 18, 2021, at Betterton Beach. The fire company has received permission from Kent County Parks and Recreation to hold the event on County property. On motion by Commissioner Fithian and seconded by Commissioner Jacob, the Commissioners unanimously approved the application as presented.

There being no further business to claim their attention, the Board adjourned and agreed to meet again on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Sondra M. Blackiston
Clerk/KATE Manager

Approved:

P. Thomas Mason, President
The County Commissioners
of Kent County, Maryland